Standing vigil
By Ann Sakaguchi, Deputy Director

I’d never done it before. Dressed in black, standing outside in a public place, for an hour, during lunchtime, holding a sign.

I was with other women dressed in black, six feet apart, who were holding up twenty different signs. This was one of WHEEL’s Women in Black* vigils.

My sign said “JIM,” in memory of our resident who passed away of COVID-19 in April. Another woman held up a sign that said “DENNIS,” remembering the first Nightwatch resident to fall from the virus.

I didn’t know what to expect or how I would feel, standing on the steps of City Hall for an hour, in silence.

So I thought about Jim and all the things that endeared him to everyone. I prayed for him and for his family and for all who had known and loved him. I watched the cars roll by and hoped they saw my sign and maybe wondered about Jim.

During these strange times, I’ve been encouraged to focus on the now, and not obsess about when it might end. So for one hour, I thought about Jim and Dennis and all the others written on the signs. It was the least I could do for them.

May they all rest in peace.

*www.wheelforwomen.org/timeline/women-in-black-history/

Pastor Rick’s article will return to this space after he recovers from COVID-19. Please pray for him to get well soon.

Bill
By Marlene Poland and staff, Housing Coordinator

Originally from the mid-west, when Bill came to us, he had been staying at our Friends shelter in the U District. A health crisis and hard times caused him to be without a home. He moved into our apartments with two bags and the clothes on his back.

We love all our tenants; please don’t get me wrong. But Bill is special.

From the beginning, he offered to help around the building. That’s not unusual; several of our residents help us out. But Bill is always looking for something more; he says it helps him sleep at night. He moves heavy packages for us and is diligent about keeping the place clean for the others. He’s the first to raise his hand when volunteers are needed. The others notice and respect him.

The difference with Bill is that he does it with gratitude. He is grateful for the home he has with us, and this is thanks to all of you. He says “This is the best place I’ve stayed in since I moved to Seattle.”

Bill’s closest friend in the building was Jim. They were buddies that shared common interests. But we lost Jim (see Ann’s article) and we all share Bill’s sadness. Even in his grief, you can almost feel his thankfulness for being here.

Bill, thank you for blessing us with your life.

Friends, thank you for your support, which allows Bill to live here. And, please, don’t forget us.

The pandemic is hitting our homeless community really hard.
Please give.

Make the switch to email newsletters!
Email your request to coleen@seattlenightwatch.org

June, 2020
Memorials & Tributes

Memorials
Peter Bailes
Joy Launderbaugh
Bill Bransom
Mary Bransom
Chaucney Burke
Susan Burke
Bill Burr
Janet Buck
June Burr
Charley Bush
Ginny Larkins
Leon Buzitis
Betty Buzitis
Marylys & Wally Carlson
Anonymous
Beth & Jeremy
Dorothy Clement
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Robert Crane
J Crane
Deborah Curtis
Ben & Flo Curtis
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Dennis
Anonymous
Mary Nichols
Chris & Judy Pruitt
Adam & Erika Schuyler
George Dillon
Joan Burton
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Sir James Douglas
Charter Harrison
Tabitha Gadzuk
Brian & Pat Hogan
Ozie & Ora Gibson
Hal Gibson
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Hal Hansen
Elizabeth Hansen
Clay & Jeanne Herbst
Pam & Clay Herbst
Jay Higbee
Marsha & Kirk Kallander
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda Martin
Elizabeth Hoffman
Marla Hoffman
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Brian & Pat Hogan
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Betty Isaac
Heather & Sean Abbott
Gertrude Isaac
Loren & Wendy Isaac
Paul, Scott & Brian Keating
Pam & Clay Herbst
Ron Kimble
Heather & Carl Craven
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
William Lee
Howard Lee
Chris & Steve Murphy
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jenny Feniason
Brian & Pat Hogan
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Paul & Tina Miller
Harley & Mercedes Lolley
Vern & Marilyn Lolley
Abbay McMahon
Jennifer Grant
Albert & Veima Miller
Vern & Marilyn Lolley
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Bud Palmberg
Anonymous
Carla Paniel
Christina Paniel
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Stephanie Rachweli Frey
Elizabeth Zebron
Norm Riggins
Marsha & Kirk Kallander
Gladys Rippe
George & Carolyn Rippe
Edith Root
Janet Root
Richard Rousse
Joy Launderbaugh
Paul Sakaguchi Sr.
Uncle Ats
Paul & Stacie Sakaguchi
Dick Shipe
Jane Shipe
Mary Speltz
Nancy Miller
Greg Speltz
Lynn Thirtyacre
Georgia Kurtz
Robert “Mugs” Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok & Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
George & Carolyn Rippe
John Weedston
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus
Chris Wright
Bob Porter
Stephanie Zebron
Stephen Zebron
Steve & Beth Siebert
Trish Zebron

Tributes
Bethany Buer
Kara & Larry McDonald-Palazzolo
Stephanie Caruso
Anonymous
Deborah Kawashima
The DiGirolamo Family
Leslie Engelmeier
Sue & Aaron Feik
Jim & Frances Reynolds
First Responders in Seattle
Aaron & Rebecca Zide
Patti Hoss
Anonymous
Man Lung Li
Shutyee Yeung
LL
Anonymous
Philip Lorente
Buffalo Mazzetti
Rick Paul
Anonymous
Jim Reynolds’ birthday
Luci & Sandy Latimer
Jim & Frances Reynolds
Rick & Lorri Reynolds
Chris Wright
Bob Porter

Shopping List
Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):
- Juice (single-sized)
- Bottled water (8 oz. preferred)
- Protein bars
- Chewy granola bars
- Cereal bars
- Chips (single serving size)
- Fruit snacks
- Fruit cups
- Trail/nut mix (individual pack)
- Cheese-n-cracker snacks (individually wrapped)
- Beef jerky sticks
- Wrapped candy
- Cookies and pastries (individually bagged)
- Whole individual fruit (apples, oranges, bananas)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Bleach

For more information about these items please contact: info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:
Ship donations to our door! https://amzn.to/2NwV2JG

Sacred space
By Michael Cox, Street Minister
During these days of social distancing, our community dinners are more pared-down than usual. Serving warm meals in boxes to-go sometimes feels transactional. I miss gathering around tables, listening and sharing stories.

Pouring cups of coffee in the parking lot is now my main task. Sometimes the spout gets stuck; I get more time to make corny small talk with under-caffeinated homeless people. It has taken Larry six weeks to accept the fact that I really don’t have any cream and sugar.

Last week, a woman was pushing her newborn in a stroller past my one-beverage barista station. She happily accepted the food and coffee I offered. Another woman, also with a newborn, walked by and offered her a box of diapers and wipes. It felt like a whirlwind of blessing was in our midst.

While she waited for the bus, I encouraged her to take some more food for later. Then, noticing she was limping, I offered to pray for her. She bowed her head and cried, “I was wondering why I got off at this bus stop.”

We prayed for her back pain, and for her boyfriend, who is struggling with addiction. As we prayed, we felt the healing presence of God filling the street, turning the bus shelter into a sacred space.

Please pray for extra comfort and healing for our homeless friends during these days of pandemic.

Pastor Rick thanks you for all your well-wishes and prayers!